

IN THE CLAIMSRECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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1 - 15 (CANCELLED)

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of providing at least one card to a dealer for manual delivery of the cards by a dealer comprising:

- providing a mechanical dealing shoe comprising a card infeed area, a card delivery area, a card transport mechanism and a card reader located between the card infeed area and the card delivery area;
- placing a set of cards within a card in-feed area;
- mechanically moving cards in an the order in which cards are removed from the set of cards from the card in-feed area to a card delivery area where at least some cards become stationary;
- reading individual cards for at least one of rank, suit or value after the cards are removed from the card in-feed area and before the cards become stationary in the card delivery area; and
- dispensing cards individually from a card dispensing end of the mechanical dealing shoe.

17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein the set of cards is placed in an approximately vertical stack in the card feed area.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one card from the set of cards is moved to a buffer area between the in-feed area and the card delivery area, and at least one card remains stationary within the buffer area until the card delivery area is sensed to be empty of cards.

19. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one card that remains stationary in a buffer area remain in the buffer area until a signal generated from the shoe indicates that at least one card is to be moved from the buffer area to the card delivery area.

20. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 wherein the signal is generated by a sensor in the card delivery area indicating that an additional card is desired in the card delivery area.

21. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 wherein the signal is generated by a sensor in the card delivery area indicating that no cards are present in the card delivery area.

22. (CANCELED)

23. (CANCELED)

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The shoe of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 16 wherein a card position sensor is present that triggers operation of the card reading sensors so that discontinuous signals of cards are provided by the card reading sensors.

25. (CANCELED)

26. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein a card position sensor triggers reading of individual cards so that discontinuous signals of cards are provided.

27. (CANCELED)